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REMARKS

ON

THE AMERICAN

UNIVERSAL GEOGRAPHY.

BY J. F.

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REMARKS, &c.

A NEW edition of Mr. Morſe's Geography has lately been publiſhed, under the title of The American Univerſal Geography; in which the author profeſſes to ſupply the deficiencies, to correct the errours, and to meliorate the offenſive paſſages, of the former edition. Relying upon the author's promiſe, I eagerly purchaſed the work. I have read it with attention; but I confeſs, I am diſappointed in my expectations. Though there are in it many things, which are entitled to praiſe; and it is undoubtedly an improvement upon the American Geography; yet truth compels me to ſay, that it is ſtill, in ſeveral reſpects, inaccurate, haſty, and partial.

With pleaſure I ſpecify the improvements which have been made; and they are principally the following.—The Introduction is enlarged, and appears to have been reviſed with care. Some uſeful additions have been made to the General Deſcription of America. The Natural Hiſtory of the United States is greatly improved. Since the publication of the American Geography, ſeveral valuable topographical works have appeared: among which ought to be particularly mentioned, Dr. Belknap's third volume of the Hiſtory of New-Hampſhire; a deſcription of the ſtate of Delaware by Mr. Miller; Mr.

W.'s deſcription of Cape Cod; Mr. T.'s, of the county of Eſſex; and Mr. Apthorp's, of Surrinam. Theſe works have enabled Mr. M. to give more correct accounts of the ſeveral countries which they deſcribe. He has alſo received many private communications, ſome of which are important. It is no more than juſtice to the American Geographer to allow, that though his work cannot always be depended upon as a ſafe guide, yet that it is frequently inſtructive, and generally entertaining. Mr. M. deſerves commendation, not only for his additions, but alſo for ſome of his omiſſions. The plan of omitting the hiſtory of the ſeparate ſtates, appears to me judicious. Within the limits of a geographical grammar, it is impoſſible to communicate to the reader any thing more, than a very imperfect idea of the hiſtory of a ſtate. Mr. M. therefore, in general, very properly refers to thoſe authors, from whom, in his opinion, the moſt complete information can be obtained.

I could applaud many other things in Mr. M.'s book, if I conceived that it would be of any benefit to the publick. But of praiſe, as well from Engliſh reviewers, as from his own countrymen, the author has already received a very liberal portion. The rapid ſale of at leaſt ſix editions of his Geography, in various forms, affords the moſt ſubſtantial proof, that the work has met with a favourable reception. It is not in my power, if it were in my intention, to impede its circulation, or to injure the reputation of its author. The publick muſt be the beſt judge of the merit of a book; and to its deciſions I am diſpoſed to ſubmit.

To me it appears a more uſeful, though a leſs pleaſing taſk, to point out the errcurs, than to extol the excellen-

ces, of the Univerſal Geography. Without profeſſing much acquaintance with the geography of America, I will venture to make a few obſervations; which, I hope, will induce thoſe who poſſeſs better information, to enter into a more complete examination of the ſubject. Such an examination will enable Mr. M. to render the future editions of his work more correct and perfect; and with this the author himſelf ought not to be diſpleaſed.

The objections which I have to make againſt Mr. M.'s Geography, are the following:—A want of uniformity in his method and plan—Inconſiſtencies and contradictions—Inaccurate maps—Want of judgment in ſelecting his materials and authorities—Local, profeſſional, and religious prejudices—Appearances of haſte and careleſſneſs—Miſtakes and omiſſions.

Some geographers, in deſcribing countries, begin at the north; and others, at the ſouth. Mr. M. adopts the former method; but he does not ſtrictly adhere to it. Cape Breton, St. John's, and Nova Scotia, are placed before Newfoundland; Vermont, before New Hampſhire; and New Hampſhire, before the diſtrict of Maine. Some may think this of little importance; but when a correct arrangement requires no more pains than a confuſed one, it ought to be obſerved.

Another part of his plan is adopting Philadelphia as his firſt meridian. It is to be regretted, that Mr. M. ſhould reject the Royal Obſervatory at Greenwich, with which moſt men of ſcience in America are familiar. His intention may be to compliment the capital of the United States. But whilſt Philadelphia continues the firſt city in America for populouſneſs and wealth, it can derive little honour from being the beginning of longitude. An innovation here is like an innovation in language:

It is of no conſequence where the firſt meridian is, provided it be fixed and in general uſe. A firſt meridian ought to be a preciſe point. But Philadelphia is an extenſive city; and Mr. M. has not informed us, from what part of it he reckons. Add to this, that it is convenient to have the beginning of longitude, either to the eaſt or weſt of every part of America; for by this means many ſuperfluous words are ſaved. But whether Mr. M.'s plan be good or not, he frequently deviates from it. For beſide Philadelphia, he has three other firſt meridians; Waſhington, London, and the Obſervatory at Greenwich.

I have commended Mr. M. for omitting the particular hiſtory of the ſtates. But in this he is not uniform. He
2 has detailed the affairs of Connecticut and Pennſylvania, becauſe there are no printed hiſtories to which he can refer. But of Rhode Iſland, a very good account can be found in the Century Sermon of Mr. Callender; a name entitled to a place in Mr. M.'s catalogue of eminent men. The Geographer appears to have borrowed ſome things from this ſermon, but without acknowledging his obligations.

Liſts of governours may very properly be admitted into a geographical work. I thank Mr. M. for thoſe which he has given; and hope that in his next edition, he will endeavour to collect the names of the governours of the ſtates, which he has omitted. This can eaſily be done with reſpect to New Hampſhire, Maſſachuſetts, and Rhode Iſland, as liſts of the governours of theſe ſtates have frequently been publiſhed. As he has ſeen fit to inſert the governours of New Haven, perhaps he may think proper to add thoſe of Plymouth. If he would avoid the charge of partiality, he ought alſo to

give the names of the preſidents of other colleges in the United States, as well as thoſe of Yale and Naſſau.

In deſcribing countries, it appears to be Mr. M.'s plan, 3
in his firſt volume, to give as the length and breadth of any ſtate, two numbers, which, multiplied together, produce the contents. Theſe numbers are either obtained by calculation, or arbitrarily aſſumed; and for the moſt part are very erroneous. Thus he ſays, that the length of Connecticut is eighty two miles, which, according to his own account, cannot be true; for its length muſt be either its north or ſouth line, neither of which is eighty two miles. The breadth of a ſtate, upon his plan, is the quotient of the number of ſquare miles divided by the length. Thus he ſays, that the breadth of Connecticut is fifty ſeven miles, which cannot be the breadth except in one part of the ſtate. What geographers mean by the length and breadth of a country, is the longeſt and broadeſt part. This method, which appears to me the beſt, is not intended to convey a perfect idea of the dimenſions of a territory, which is done by ſpecifying the number of ſquare miles. The form of a ſtate may be made known by a more particular deſcription, which need not employ many words.—Mr. M.'s plan, however, exceptionable as it is, would be leſs confuſed, if he uniformly adhered to it. But he frequently deviates from it, without giving notice to the reader. The length of Maſſachuſetts, he ſays, is a hundred and twenty five miles; and the breadth, fifty; and the ſquare miles, ſix thouſand, two hundred, and fifty. "Rhode Iſland is in length, ſixty eight miles; and in breadth, forty;" the product of which is two thouſand, ſeven hundred, and twenty ſquare miles. The uninſtructed reader therefore would ſuppoſe, that Rhode Iſland is above three ſevenths of the

ſize of Maſſachuſetts; when the fact is, that it is not as large as the county of Worceſter.—In New York and moſt of the ſtates ſouth of it, it is not eaſy to ſay, what plan Mr. M. has followed.

Mr. M.'s American Geography contained two maps. They have been increaſed, he ſays, in the preſent edition, "from two to eleven:" ten, he means, for I cannot find more in both his volumes. Of theſe maps, four only are of the United States. The two larger maps, which are ſcarcely legible, appear to be printed from the worn out plates of the former edition. "The map of the Southern States, Mr. M. aſſerts, is the moſt accurate yet publiſhed reſpecting that country, on ſo ſmall a ſcale."* I ſhall not preſume to contradict him. But the map of the Northern and Middle States is one of the moſt inaccurate, which has ever been publiſhed upon any ſcale. To mention ſome of its blunders by way of ſpecimen: The Sandy Point of Nantucket almoſt touches the Sandy Point of Chatham. Blackſtone river riſes near the ſouth line of New Hampſhire, many miles north of Worceſter. Cambridge is ſouth weſt from Boſton. New Hampſhire extends no further than the latitude 45°. Falmouth is at a great diſtance ſouth weſt from Caſco bay, which appears to be nothing but the mouth of Royal's river. This river is longer than Saco river. Cape Elizabeth does not form the ſouth point of Caſco bay, but is placed above forty miles ſouth weſt from it. The river Ameriſcoggin riſes in the county of Cumberland, about the latitude 46°, and runs nearly a ſouth courſe. Penobſcot bay is laid down in the latitude 45°.

The map of the diſtrict of Maine is more correctly drawn. But it is defective, in laying down no iſlands

* Am. Geog. Pref. p. vii.

in Caſco bay, and in omitting ſeveral rivers, which there is room to inſert. Of Falmouth river, which, according to the map, runs into Caſco bay, I have never before heard. The true name of this river is Preſumſcut, which appears by the map to be the name of a town. Preſumſcut river originates from Sebacook lake, and not from Tobago pond, which has no exiſtence. Sebacook lake, according to Mr. M. is the ſource of a river which runs into the Ameriſcoggin.

Both in this map, and in that of Pennſylvania, the rivers are made diſproportionably wide; and there are few names of places. In the latter map, there are ſome ſhades, which are probably intended for mountains, but they bear a much greater reſemblance to meadows. The degrees of latitude are irregularly placed; ſo as not to correſpond with each other on the oppoſite ſides of the map. And the ſcale of miles is ſo inaccurate, that, meaſuring by it, Pennſylvania is above four hundred miles in length, and above two hundred, in breadth.

Upon the whole, Mr. M.'s four maps do no honour to his work, nor to the country in which it is publiſhed. The profit which he derived from the ſale of his Geography, gave the publick a right to expect, that he ſhould, in his new edition, furniſh at leaſt eight maps of the different parts of the United States.

Another thing in which Mr. M. is peculiarly unfortunate, is his want of judgment in ſelecting his materials and authorities. It would be endleſs to point out the miſtakes, into which this has led him. He ſeems in general, to adopt the accounts of his correſpondents and living authorities, without further inquiry, or critical diſcrimination. Of deceaſed authors, Douglaſs appears to be one, upon whom he greatly depends. But every

man, who is acquainted with Douglaſs's writings, knows that he is not an authority. Not to mention that he wrote at a time, when the geography of the Britiſh colonies was imperfectly underſtood, he was too careleſs and impatient, and too full of prejudice and diſdain, to be impartial and correct. There are undoubtedly many truths in his two volumes; but they are ſo blended with falſehoods, that it is a laborious taſk to ſeparate them; and it can ſeldom be done, without having recourſe to other authors. Governour Hutchinſon, in his Hiſtory of Maſſachuſetts, has pointed out many miſtakes in Douglaſs's Summary: and Dr. Mayhew, if I miſtake not, once made a publick apology, for quoting him as an authentick writer.

An author, who like Mr. M. ſolicits information from all quarters, will probably receive many trifling and erroneous accounts. But uninfluenced by the motives of complaiſance and gratitude to the writers, his duty to the publick requires that he ſhould reject them. To this obligation, I believe, Mr. M. has not paid much attention. From other glaring examples, I will ſelect the character that he has given of the inhabitants of Bermudas; which, he ſays, was ſent to him by an intelligent gentleman, who had reſided there a number of years. ℌ The Bermudians have been characterized by thoſe who have viſited them, as a ſimple, artleſs, and induſtrious people, unpoliſhed in their manners, uncontaminated in general with the vices which prevail in large ſocieties, hoſpitable to ſtrangers, and humane to their ſlaves. But ſee in what a ridiculous light Mr. M.'s correſpondent endeavours to place them. (Vol. I, p. 676.) "However induſtrious the men are abroad, at home they are indolent; much given, particularly of late, to gaming and

luxury. The women are generally handſome and *comely*; they love their huſbands, their children, and their *dreſs*. Dancing is their favourite amuſement. The men muſt be equipped in taſte, when they appear in company, ſhould they not have a dollar in the pound to pay their creditors; the women muſt array themſelves like the belles of Paris, ſhould they not have a morſel of bread to preſerve their blooming complexion. They are thoroughly acquainted with one another's families, and from their tea tables, as from their *atmoſphere*, ariſes conſtant guſts of ſcandal and *detraction*. To *ſtrangers* they are kind, but among themſelves are quarrelſome. Their *friendly* intercourſe is too much confined within a narrow circle, bounded by *couſins* or *ſecond couſins*."

Is this a candid deſcription, or is it a dull and illiberal ſatire? I would aſk Mr. M. whether it poſſeſſes any diſcriminating features? Are not the men and women of other climes fond of dreſs, and addicted to ſcandal? In all ſmall towns, the inhabitants are well acquainted with one another's families. In every part of the world, where the women are handſome, they are generally comely. Why then did not Mr. M.'s correſpondent ſay at once, that the people of Bermudas are human beings? As it is not my deſign to criticiſe errours of ſtyle, I forbear to remark upon the properties attributed to the atmoſphere of Bermudas, from which "ariſes conſtant guſts of ſcandal and detraction." Nor do I ſay, that thoſe who confine their *friendly* intercourſe to their near relations, cannot be quarrelſome among themſelves, or kind to ſtrangers. Our Geographer, in this and in many other parts of his work, ſeems to have forgotten the obſervation of Mr. Young, which is quoted with approbation in his ſecond volume, page 167. "It is but an

illiberal buſineſs for a traveller, who deſigns to publiſh remarks upon a country, to ſit down cooly in his cloſet and write a ſatire on the inhabitants. Severity of that ſort muſt be enlivened with an uncommon ſhare of wit and ridicule, to pleaſe. Where very groſs abſurdities are found, it is fair and manly to note them; but to enter into character and diſpoſition is generally uncandid, ſince there are no people but might be better than they are found, and none but have virtues which deſerve attention, at leaſt as much as their failings." It is to be lamented, that Mr. M. is incapable of imitating the candour which he approves. Had he imbibed more of the ſpirit of Mr. Young, he would never have written his illiberal invectives againſt the inhabitants of Rhode Iſland, Maryland, North Carolina, and the ſouthern ſtates in general.

Next to depending upon trifling authorities, is the fault of adopting the errours of writers, who are really reſpectable. A univerſal geographer ought to receive nothing implicitly, eſpecially if it be incredible. It is incredible that the peccary ſhould "have its navel on the back," as Mr. M. aſſerts (vol. I, p. 661) upon the authority of Mr. Apthorp, who has given the publick an ingenious, and (as I have been informed by other gentlemen, who have reſided in the country) accurate deſcription of the colony of Surrinam. Further inquiry would have taught Mr. M. that more than two centuries have elapſed, ſince anatomiſts have evinced, that the cavity on the back of the peccary is not its navel.*

Upon the authority of the Abbé Clavigero, Mr. M. has placed lions and tigers in Mexico (vol. I, p. 638.)

* See Buffon's Nat. Hiſt. of the Peccary, and Clavigero's Hiſt. of Mexico. Vol. I, p. 38.

But whether this be done with propriety, may be diſputed. There are, I confeſs, in Mexico and South America, animals which bear ſome reſemblance to the tiger; and a beaſt without a mane, in Mexico, called the miztli, which Clavigero will have to be a lion.* But other natural hiſtorians of reputation teach, that the genuine lion and tiger are not to be found, except in the eaſtern continent; and that it is confounding names and diſtinctions, to apply theſe denominations to any animals in America.

The other objections which I have urged, will, I flatter myſelf, be juſtified, by pointing out ſome particular miſtakes in the firſt volume of the American Univerſal Geography, following the order of the pages.

I have commended the Introduction; but there are a few inaccuracies in it, probably the effect of haſte, which, as the work is deſigned for ſchools and colleges, ought to be corrected.

P. 30. "The earth is ſomething in the form of a flat turnip." This will convey a falſe idea to the mind of a learner. A turnip of the common form is very oblate. But a *flat* turnip, if the epithet have any meaning, muſt be more like a pancake than the earth.

P. 31. "Were the earth a perfect plane, the ſun would appear to be vertical in every part of it." Not unleſs this plane were turned directly to the ſun; or, in other words, unleſs it were perpendicular to a line drawn to the ſun's centre. In every other poſition of the plane, the ſun would appear vertical on no part of it.

P. 33. The ecliptick "makes an angle with the equator of 23° 30′." This is not conſiſtent with the Table, p. 20, in which it is aſſerted, that the axis of the earth is inclined to its orbit 23° 29′.

* Hiſt. of Mexico. Vol. I, p. 37.

P. 49. Prop. ix. "All the inhabitants of the earth enjoy the ſun's light an equal length of time." This, I believe, is not true. As the orbit of the earth is not a circle, but an ellipſis, it is a longer time in revolving from the vernal to the autumnal equinox, than from the autumnal to the vernal. Conſequently the northern hemiſphere enjoys more of the ſun's light, than the ſouthern; and the day at the ſouth pole, is ſhorter than that at the north.

P. 56. Monſoons are very obſcurely accounted for.

P. 75. Mr. M. attempts to prove that the number of inhabitants in America muſt be "*conſiderably* leſs than ſixty millions, ſeven hundred, and fifty thouſand." His arguments, I doubt not, will appear concluſive to all his readers. But yet, ſtrange as it may be thought, they do not convince himſelf. For in p. 82, he ſays, "We reckon the number of the Americans at about ſixty millions."

When, and in what manner, was America peopled, are queſtions, which have long agitated the minds of inquiſitive men. Various hypotheſes have been framed, none of which are perfectly ſatisfactory. It is the buſineſs of a geographer to ſtate thoſe which are the moſt ingenious; but it is imprudent to adopt any one in particular, leſt, when called upon, he ſhould be unable to defend it. Mr. M. rejecting the hypotheſis of Dr. Robertſon, which, he ſays, "for want of information, is in ſeveral reſpects inaccurate and without foundation," embraces the opinion of the Abbé Clavigero. P. 77. The Abbé thinks it probable, that America was peopled ſoon after the flood, and by families diſperſed by the confuſion of tongues. Some of them paſſed from the moſt eaſtern parts of Aſia; others, from the north weſt parts of Europe; but the anceſtors of the nations of South

America, he conjectures, went thither from Africa; not by water, but over an iſthmus, which formerly connected the two continents, and which has ſince been ſunk by a ſucceſſion of earthquakes. Thus does the Abbé cut the knot, which others have in vain attempted to untie.

It is not my intention to enter into a controverſy with Mr. M. upon this queſtion. But among many objections, which might be forcibly urged againſt the hypotheſis, there is one which, I ſuppoſe, ought to have great weight in his mind. He admits, that all the inhabitants of the globe are deſcended from one man. If this be a truth, as I have no doubt that it is, the difference of complexion among mankind muſt proceed from difference of climate, and from other phyſical cauſes.* Theſe cauſes operate very ſlowly, requiring many centuries probably, to produce any viſible effect. Now Dr. Robertſon and many other authors maintain, and Mr. M. has not denied it, that the Indians of America, except the Eſquimaux, are ſimilar to each other in the colour of their ſkins. But Mr. M. himſelf allows, p. 71, that "America has all the varieties of climate which the earth affords." In the eaſtern continent is found a great variety of complexions, correſponding with remarkable exactneſs to the differences of climate, and other phyſical cauſes, exiſting in the ſeveral parts of it.† Is it not then highly probable, that the weſtern continent has been recently peopled?

* There is another hypotheſis, that the varieties of complexion among mankind were ſupernaturally produced ſoon after the flood. But as this ſuppoſes a miraculous interpoſition, where there ſeems to be no neceſſity for it, I take it for granted, that it is not adopted by Mr. M.

† See Buffon's Nat. Hiſt. vol. I, 4to. edit.

P. 85. Mr. M. in his character of the Mexicans, mixes together qualities, which, I believe, are not often found aſſociated in the ſame human being. "They are patient of injuries"—but "anxious to puniſh crimes." "Good faith is not ſo much reſpected as it deſerves to be;"—but, at the ſame time, "generoſity and perfect diſintereſtedneſs are ſtriking traits in their character."

P. 99. Our Geographer gives an account of the new diſcoveries on the north weſt coaſt of America. But it contains ſeveral errours. Among others which might be mentioned, he ſays "Nootka Sound is ſituated in north latitude 40° 30′:" and that Captain Cook landed at a place on the coaſt of New Albion, "ſituated in north latitude 74° 33′." P. 101.

Mr. M. informs his readers in his ſecond volume, p. 422, that the emperor of China, a century ago, "levelled the churches [of chriſtians] with the ground, and prohibited the exerciſe of their religion; ſince which time chriſtianity has made no progreſs in China." But in his firſt volume, p. 107, there is a very different account. He here ſuggeſts, that chriſtianity has been reſtored, and that publick worſhip is conducted with ſplendour, the Chineſe chriſtians being permitted to burn ſandle wood in their *churches*.

P. 109. "This year (1548—49) king Henry VII. granted a penſion for life to Sabaſtian Cabot." Henry VII. died forty years before this period. It ſhould be Edward VI. who began his reign 1547.

P. 124. Mr. M. is fond of the marvellous. Witneſs his deſcription of the cold of Greenland; where he ſays, that "the ice and hoar froſt reaches through the chimney to the ſtove's mouth, without being thawed by the fire in the day time." But though fire has no heat

in Greenland, yet it ſeems ſmoke is not entirely deſtitute of it. For that has power to thaw ſmall holes through the arch of froſt, which is formed over the chimney.

P. 133. "Captain Chriſtopher attempted further diſcoveries [in the northern parts of America] in 1361." That is, a hundred and thirty one years before the voyage of Columbus.

Mr. M.'s deſcription of Canada contains ſeveral miſtakes. In his American Geography there is a ſhort account, which is more correct. Had he not been in too much haſte, he would not probably have deviated from it in his preſent edition.

P. 135. "Upper and Lower Canada comprehend the territory heretofore called Canada, *or* the Province of Quebec." Canada is a vaſt country, of which the old province of Quebec, limited by act of parliament, is a part only.

"Length, ſix hundred miles; breadth, five hundred and fifty: ſituated between 61° and 81°, weſt longitude from London." The limits of Canada to the weſt, are not defined; but it extends at leaſt as far as the longitude 96°, from London. Its length is above fourteen hundred miles; but its breadth, in the wideſt part, is ſhort of five hundred miles.

"Bounded eaſt, by part of the province of New Brunſwick." It is bounded ſouth by New Brunſwick, as Mr. M. himſelf ſays in the next paragraph. Canada is bounded eaſt, by New Britain and the gulf of St. Lawrence.

"The river St. Lawrence, *below* Quebec, is of ſufficient depth for ſhips of war. It falls into the *ocean* at Cape Roſieres by a mouth ninety miles broad." This river is of ſufficient depth for ſhips of war, many miles,

above Quebec. It falls into the gulf of St. Lawrence, by a mouth above a hundred miles broad.*

P. 136. "Quebec is covered with a citadel, in which the governour reſides." The governour of Quebec does not reſide in the citadel.

"The number of inhabitants is computed at about fifteen thouſand." In the year 1784, according to the American Geography, Quebec contained ſix thouſand, four hundred, and ſeventy two inhabitants. At preſent the number is ſomewhat more.

"The haven is about five fathoms deep." It is from five to twenty five fathoms deep.

"The harbour is flanked by two baſtions." The harbour of Quebec is not flanked by baſtions.

P. 137. "The town called Trois Rivieres has its name from three rivers which join their currents here, and fall into the river St. Lawrence." There is not but one river at Trois Rivieres. This river has three channels, which are formed by two ſmall iſlands lying at its mouth.

"The fortifications [of Montreal] have been much improved by the Engliſh." The fortifications of Montreal are going to decay, and have never been repaired by the Engliſh.

Under the article, Government, Mr. M. omits the moſt diſtinguiſhing feature of the conſtitution of the two provinces; which is, that the king may annex to hereditary titles of honour, the right of being ſummoned to the legiſlative council.

* In this and many of the following corrections of the Univerſal Geography, I rely upon the Charts publiſhed by Des Barres, for the uſe of the Royal Navy of Great Britain. The reputation of theſe charts is ſo well eſtabliſhed, that it is unneceſſary to urge any thing in their commendation.

P. 139. " Cape Breton lies between the latitudes 45° and 47°, north; and between 59° and 60°, weſt longitude from London. It is about a hundred miles in length, and fifty in breadth." Cape Breton is ſituated between 45° 28′ and 47° 2′, north latitude; and between 59° 44′ and 61° 29′, weſt longitude from London. The length is a hundred and nine miles; and the breadth, eighty four miles. In the narroweſt part, it is about twenty miles.

" Except in the hilly parts, the ſurface of the country has but little ſolidity, being every where covered with a light moſs and with water.—The ſoil is unfit for agriculture." I have ſeen a late account which ſays, that there is a great proportion of arable land on this iſland.

P. 140. " A great quantity of ſoft wood was found there, fit for firing, and *ſome* that might be uſed for timber." Cape Breton abounds in timber. See l. 36, and p. 141, l. 5.

Mr. M.'s account of Cape Breton, is rather a deſcription of what it was under the French, than what it is at preſent.

P. 141. " Nova Scotia [including New Brunſwick.] Length, four hundred miles; breadth, three hundred; ſituated between 43° 30′ and 49°, north latitude; and between 60° and 67°, eaſt longitude from London." Nova Scotia (including New Brunſwick) is in length, three hundred and ſeventeen miles; and in breadth, two hundred and fifty four; and is ſituated between 43° 30′ and 48° 4′, north latitude; and between 61° and 67°, weſt longitude from London.

" Bounded on the north, by the river St. Lawrence." It is bounded on the north, by Lower Canada, from which it is ſeparated in part, by the bay of Chaleurs, and the river Reſtigouche, which Mr. M. calls Riſgonche.

P. 143. "St. John's river is navigable for veſſels of fifty tons, ſixty miles." It is navigable for ſloops to Frederick town, which is ninety miles.

"The bay of Verte is ſeparated from the bay of Fundy by a narrow iſthmus of about eighteen miles wide." This iſthmus is fifteen miles wide.

Gaſpee bay is not in New Brunſwick, where Mr. M. places it, but in Lower Canada. Several important bays are omitted; among which are, Miramichi, in New Brunſwick; and Frederick, George, Torbay, Charlotte, King's, Barrington, Townſhend, St. Mary, Annapolis Royal, and the baſin of Mines, in Nova Scotia.

P. 144. "Halifax is ſaid to contain fifteen or ſixteen thouſand inhabitants." Halifax contains four thouſand inhabitants.

"Frederick town is the capital of the province of New Brunſwick." St. John's is the capital of New Brunſwick.

"During a great part of the year, the atmoſphere is clouded with thick fog, which renders it unhealthy for the inhabitants." Thoſe who have lived in Nova Scotia, affirm, that the climate is remarkably healthful. The climate of this country cannot differ much from that of Cape Breton; and of the latter Mr. M. has ſpoken in the following terms, p. 139. "The dampneſs of the ſoil is exhaled in fogs, without rendering the air unwholeſome." Can oppoſite effects ariſe from the ſame cauſe? Mr. M. has miſtaken the origin of the fog, which is not from the land, but the ſea.

The American Geographer has given too unfavourable a deſcription of the ſoil of this country. In New Brunſwick, there are extenſive tracts of excellent land. And even in the peninſula of Nova Scotia, there are many

large and well cultivated farms. The inhabitants have lately made great improvements in huſbandry, for the encouragement of which an agricultural ſociety has been inſtituted.*

P. 145. "The iſland of St. John's is about ſixty miles long." It is a hundred and three miles long, and from ten to thirty five miles broad.

P. 146. "Newfoundland is ſituated between 46 and 52 degrees of north latitude; and between 53 and 59 degrees, weſt longitude: being five hundred and fifty miles long; and two hundred, broad." Newfoundland is ſituated between 46° 45′ and 51° 46′, north latitude; and between 52° 31′ and 59° 40′, weſt longitude from the Obſervatory at Greenwich; which according to Mr. M.'s Table, at the end of his ſecond volume, is 0° 5′ 37″, eaſt from St. Paul's, London. The length, from north weſt to ſouth eaſt, is three hundred and eighty one miles: the greateſt breadth, two hundred and eighty ſeven miles; and the breadth, in the narroweſt part, about forty miles.

Mr. M. omits the other iſlands which are in the gulf of St. Lawrence. The moſt remarkable are Anticoſti, the Magdalen Iſles, and Iſle Percée.

Anticoſti lies near the mouth of the river St. Lawrence; and is a hundred and twenty ſix miles long, and thirty two miles broad. It has no good harbours, and is uninhabited.

The Magdalen Iſles are a ſtring of iſlands, lying in longitude 61° 40′, weſt from the Obſervatory at Greenwich, and extending from 47° 13′ to 47° 42′, north latitude. They are inhabited by a few fiſhermen. Theſe

* See the valuable pamphlet juſt publiſhed by the Truſtees of the Maſſachuſetts Agricultural Society, p. 35—45.

iſlands were formerly the haunts of ſea cows; which are now nearly exterminated. Though Mr. M. enumerates the ſea cow among the animals of the United States; yet I have been informed by a gentleman, who is well acquainted with its hiſtory, that it is not found further ſouth than Louiſbourg.

Iſle Percée, which lies about five leagues ſouth of Cape Gaſpee, is very ſmall; but it deſerves to be mentioned as a curioſity. It is a perpendicular rock, and is *pierced* with two natural arches, through which the ſea flows. One of theſe arches is ſufficiently high, to admit a large boat to paſs freely through it.

P. 148. In deſcribing the part of the United States, which is "to be diſpoſed of by order of Congreſs, when purchaſed of the Indians," Mr. M. is not very clear. Its northern boundary, he ſays, "extends from the river St. Croix to the Lake of the Woods." Congreſs has now no lands to diſpoſe of, eaſt of Lake Erie. He ſhould therefore ſay, that the northern boundary of this territory extends from the Lake of the Woods, to the north weſt corner of Pennſylvania.

P. 151. "A ſmall river, juſt before it enters the lake, [Superiour] has a perpendicular fall from the top of a mountain, of more than a hundred feet." Carver deſcribes this fall as ſix hundred feet high.

P. 154. "The falls of Niagara are a hundred and fifty feet perpendicular." The height has frequently been meaſured, and found to be leſs than a hundred and fifty feet. When exact numbers have been aſcertained, round numbers ought not to be uſed.

P. 162. In his account of the bays of the United States, the American Geographer is very far from being correct. Many important bays are omitted, to make room for

"the gulf of St. Lawrence, Chedabukto and Chebukto bays, in Nova Scotia, and the bay of Fundy;" none of which are within the limits of the United States.

"Long Iſland ſound is about one hundred and forty miles long, extending the whole length of the iſland." The Sound does not extend the whole length of Long Iſland; and is not much more than a hundred miles long.

P. 163. "The Cheſapeek is one of the largeſt bays in the known world. It extends two hundred and ſeventy miles to the northward, dividing Virginia and Maryland." There are many bays in America and other parts of the world, larger than the Cheſapeek; which does not extend two hundred miles to the northward. It is not eaſy to determine, what Mr. M. intends by "*dividing* Virginia and Maryland." If his meaning be, that the whole of Maryland is on one ſide of the bay; and the whole of Virginia, on the other; this is not true. If his meaning be, that the Cheſapeek divides them, as Connecticut river divides Maſſachuſetts and Connecticut, by running through them; he has expreſſed himſelf with great obſcurity.

P. 233. Under the head of Commerce, Mr. M. has very properly introduced the Abſtract of goods exported from the United States, from the 1ſt of October, 1790, to the 30th of September, 1791. The amount is, ſeventeen millions, five hundred and ſeventy one thouſand, five hundred and fifty one dollars, and forty five cents. The reader would be enabled to form a more complete idea of the commerce of the United States, if the amount of exports for the year preceding, had alſo been inſerted. It appears from an Abſtract of Exports, publiſhed in Mr. Fenno's Gazette, that, from the commencement of the cuſtom houſes in the ſeveral ſtates, which was at differ-

ent times in Auguſt, 1789, to the 30th of September, 1790, there were exported goods and merchandize, amounting to the value of twenty millions, four hundred and fifteen thouſand, nine hundred and ſixty ſix dollars, and eighty four cents.*

P. 243. Mr. M. aſſigns as the principal cauſe of the increaſing manufactures of the United States, "the prevailing diſpoſition among the European nations, and particularly Great Britain, to reſtrict and embarraſs their external trade." This may be one cauſe; but there are ſeveral others, which are more operative.

P. 253. The degeneracy of the congregational churches from that order, fellowſhip, and harmony, in diſcipline, doctrines, and friendly advice and aſſiſtance in eccleſiaſtical matters, which formerly ſubſiſted among them, is matter of deep regret to many, not to ſay moſt people of that denomination." That the congregational churches of New England have degenerated from that harmony, which formerly ſubſiſted among them, if by harmony be meant fraternal affection, is not true. At no period has chriſtian charity prevailed, more than at preſent. Both miniſters and people cheerfully mix with each other in ſociety, regardleſs of difference of ſentiment. That the congregational churches do not agree in *doctrines*, as much at preſent, as before the age of Edwards and Mayhew, muſt be allowed. This may be a matter of deep regret to Mr. M. But I have the pleaſure of being acquainted with many congregational miniſters, who, viewing it as the unavoidable effect of the ſpirit of free inquiry and zeal for truth, prevailing in New England,

* The exports for the year, ending the laſt day of September, 1792, amounted to the value of twenty millions, five hundred and eighteen thouſand, and fourteen dollars. See Columbian Centinel, No. 975.

rather rejoice than repine at it. But, if it be an evil, it cannot be remedied except by that Being, who only has power to harmonize the diſcordant ſentiments of mankind. A conſociation of churches, which Mr. M. ſeems to deſire; an examination of candidates for the miniſtry, as to their opinions; a ſubſcription to articles of faith; and the other methods uſually practiſed by religious eſtabliſhments; would not, in the preſent ſtate of manners in New England, and under the free conſtitutions of government which the people happily enjoy, be followed by the effects which Mr. M. wiſhes. So far from producing a harmony in diſcipline and doctrine, theſe cauſes would ſplit the congregational church into a number of diſtinct ſects, and would deſtroy that harmony of affection, which is its peculiar honour.

P. 261. Mr. M. gives the number of the Weſleian methodiſts in the United States; but he has made a miſtake in his arithmetick, which is a common fault with him.

P. 265—268. A very exceptionable part of Mr. M.'s work, is his account of that claſs of univerſalliſts, who are the followers of Mr. Murray. The American Geographer here throws aſide all appearances of candour. Inſtead of an impartial repreſentation of the ſentiments of this ſect, he adopts the ſtyle of controverſy. His attack is ungenerous; becauſe, according to his own aſſertion, theſe univerſalliſts are a very ſmall body. It is ungenerous; as they have not the power of defending themſelves upon equal ground. Mr. M.'s Geography will probably circulate through every part of the United States. It will be read in families, and taught in ſchools and colleges. The youth of America will be inſtructed

by him, to look upon the univerſalliſts with contempt and abhorrence. Whilſt any defence which they may make of themſelves, can be communicated by no other medium, than newſpapers or other fugitive publications, which, as ſoon as they are read, are thrown aſide and forgotten.

Mr. M. aſſerts, that theſe univerſalliſts "differ not only from all other univerſalliſts, and from each other, but even from themſelves at different times." He affirms, that "their notions reſpecting the ordinances are vague and unſettled." He charges them with contradiction, and want of grammatical propriety. And he ſneers at them, when they "profeſs themſelves to be the advocates of piety, religion, and morality." Though it may be thought preſumption in me, to vindicate a ſect, which the American Geographer has condemned; yet I will venture to ſay, that his repreſentation is unfair and erroneous. Enjoying the happineſs of a large acquaintance with this claſs of univerſalliſts, having frequently heard their preachers, and read many of their printed books and letters in manuſcript,* I will take the liberty to give it as my opinion, that they are as uniform in their religious creed, as moſt other ſects of chriſtians. Their ſentiments and conduct reſpecting the ordinances, appear to me to diſcover a liberality, in what they ſuppoſe to be mere ſhadows, or things indifferent: and Mr. M. himſelf ought to allow, that charity is better than ordinances. In purity of morals, I do not perceive that they are inferiour to other chriſtians. Though they de-

* In the year 1777, I was favoured with the peruſal of a long letter, written by the head of this denomination, and expreſſing ſentiments perfectly conſiſtent with thoſe contained in his Letter to a Friend, printed in the year 1791.

ny the doctrine of everlasting misery, yet they have other motives to influence them to virtue. They inculcate the necessity of obeying the commands of God their saviour. They reject with indignation, the licentious consequences, which their enemies deduce from their principles.

Mr. M. attacks with more caution the Chauncean universallists. But, by comparing one part of his book with another, it is plain enough to be seen, that he would censure them with as much harshness, as the other class of universallists, if he did not think them more formidable for their number and abilities. He quotes with much art the words of Mr. Murray, who calls them "pharisaical universallists, who are willing to justify themselves." In p. 264, he says, "The *open* advocates of this scheme are *few*." But in p. 253, he affirms, "That a *number* [of congregationallists] have adopted Dr. Chauncy's scheme." Unless therefore, a *few*, and a *number*, mean the same thing, it must be Mr. M.'s intention to insinuate, that the disciples of Dr. Chauncy are dishonest men, who do not *openly* advocate, what they *secretly* believe.

In the History of the United States, Mr. M. has made one or two mistakes. P. 277, he affirms, that about seventeen persons, in Boston, destroyed the East India Company's tea. Many persons, well acquainted with that transaction, are still living. From them he might have learned, that a much greater number were engaged.

P. 291. "Major Andre, *aid* to General Clinton." Major Andre was adjutant general of the British army.*

P. 294. "The peace was negotiated on the part of Great Britain by David Hartley." The peace was ne-

* Gordon's Hist. of Amer. Rev. vol. III, p. 481.

gotiated by Mr. Oſwald.* The definitive treaty was ſigned by Mr. Hartley.†

P. 296. "Enemies to the revolution multiply the apprehenſions of people, and increaſe the popular diſcontents." What right has Mr. M. to ſay, that theſe perſons were enemies to the revolution? Did they acknowledge that they were? On the contrary, however unjuſtifiable their conduct, did they not always profeſs, that they were friends to the liberty and independence of the United States?

An intereſting article, which Mr. M. omits, is the preſent ſtate of learning, and an account of the moſt diſtinguiſhed authors now flouriſhing in the United States. There are, it is true, a few hints, ſcattered about in different parts of his work; but he has not treated the ſubject profeſſedly. Though our country is ſtill in its infancy, yet we can already boaſt of many good writers. What an American geographer would have moſt to guard againſt, is exaggerated applauſe. We cannot pretend to vie with the Engliſh, French, and ſome other nations of Europe. But our countrymen have afforded ſufficient proofs, that they are not deſtitute of genius.

P. 310. "New England lies between 41 and 46 degrees, north latitude." According to Mr. M.'s own maps, New England extends as far north as the latitude 48°. The truth is, that its northern limits are not preciſely known; but they are probably not further north than the latitude 47°.

New England "curves to the eaſtward, almoſt to the gulf of St. Lawrence." It does not approach within a hundred miles of the gulf of St. Lawrence.

* Ramſay's Hiſt. of Am. Rev. vol. II, p. 306. Gordon, vol. IV, p. 332—360.

† Gordon, vol. IV, p. 392.

P. 316. "The expreſſion of a wiſh to be promoted [to an office of publick truſt] is, in ſome parts of New England, the direct way to be diſappointed." In New England, it is accounted indecorous in thoſe who aſpire after publick offices, to propoſe themſelves as candidates. The general practice is to ſolicit them through the medium of their friends; and this is the moſt uſual way of obtaining them.

P. 322. "Vermont. Length, a hundred and fifty miles; breadth, ſeventy: ſituated beetween 1° 35′ and 3° 30′, eaſt longitude from Philadelphia." According to Blodget's map, Vermont is ſituated between 1° 44′ and 3° 35′, eaſt longitude from Philadelphia. The meridian length is a hundred and fifty ſeven miles and a half; the length of the north line, ſeventy ſeven miles; and of the ſouth line, thirty eight miles. Preſident Langdon's map makes the length of the ſouth line, thirty ſix miles.

P. 329. "New Hampſhire. Breadth, ſixty miles." The breadth of New Hampſhire, according to Mr. M.'s plan, ought to be fifty ſix miles, the quotient of the ſquare miles divided by the length. Dr. Belknap ſays, that the greateſt breadth of New Hampſhire is ninety miles; and that its breadth, on the 45th degree of latitude, is nineteen miles.

"Situated between 4° 30′ and 6° 17′, eaſt longitude" [from Philadelphia.] That is, the longitude of Philadelphia from the Obſervatory at Greenwich, is 76° 57′ or 58′; for we are informed by Dr. Belknap, whoſe authority in whatever relates to New Hampſhire muſt be viewed as deciſive, that this ſtate lies between 70° 40′ and 72° 28′, weſt from that meridian. It is impoſſible from the Univerſal Geography, to determine the longitude of Philadelphia. In p. 139, Mr. M. ſuggeſts, that

it is ſituated 74°, weſt from London. In p. 484, he makes the difference of longitude between theſe two meridians, 75°. But in the Table, at the end of his ſecond volume, he raiſes it to 75° 9′. The longitude of Philadelphia is 75° 3′ 8″, weſt from London, or 75° 8′ 45″, from the Obſervatory at Greenwich. Conſequently New Hampſhire is ſituated between 2° 41′ and 4° 29′, eaſt longitude from Philadelphia.

P. 330. "Mooſe *hillock* mountain." The name of this mountain in Dr. Belknap's Hiſtory, is Mooſhelock.

P. 336. "A few miles from the entrance [of the Winipiſeogee branch of Merrimack river] into the Pemigewaſſet, is a place called the W*ares*, remarkable for the number of ſalmon and ſhad which are here caught." Salmon do not paſs up Winipiſeogee river.

P. 343. In the Table, at the end of his ſecond volume, Mr. M. makes the longitude of Portſmouth 70° 43′, weſt from London. According to Dr. Belknap, it is 70° 41′, weſt from the Obſervatory at Greenwich.

P. 345. "Diſtrict of Maine. Length, a hundred and ſeventy miles: ſituated between 4° and 9°, eaſt longitude; and between 43° and 48°, north latitude." The American Geographer has forgotten, that he ſaid, p. 310, that New England, of which Maine is the moſt northern part, extends no further than the latitude 46°. The ſouth point of this diſtrict is in the latitude 43° 4′. A part of the weſtern line lies in the longitude 4° 11′, eaſt from Philadelphia. The extent to the northward is unknown. The eaſtern limits are diſputed. The ſea coaſt, according to Mr. M. p. 347, is two hundred and forty miles in extent. This I ſuppoſe to be near the truth. The length of Maine therefore muſt be at leaſt

two hundred and forty miles. According to Mr. M.'s own map, it is about three hundred miles.

P. 346. "Portland; latitude 43° 43′." The latitude of Portland is 43° 39′ ½.

P. 347. "From the head of the tide, to the head of the bay, to the ſite of old Fort Pownal, the river [Penobſcot] is remarkably ſtraight. Paſſing by Majabagaduſe, on the eaſt, ſeven miles, and Owls head, twenty miles further, on the weſt, you enter the ocean." This is not accurate. Penobſcot river, in the beſt maps, does not appear remarkably ſtraight; and Owls head is above twenty miles from Majabagaduſe.

P. 348. "Noneſuch river receives its name from its extraordinary freſhets." Noneſuch river, which is nothing but a ſmall creek, does not receive its name from extraordinary *freſhets*.

Mr. M. omits many important bays and rivers.

P. 349. "In the counties of York and Cumberland, fruit is as plenty as in New Hampſhire." Fruit is not plenty in theſe two counties. Cider is made by very few, except in the townſhips near Portſmouth. In Cumberland, there are no orchards worth mentioning, except in Falmouth, North Yarmouth, Gorham, and Scarborough.

P. 350. "Town ſchools are very generally maintained in moſt of the towns that are able to defray the expenſe." This is a great miſtake. The neglect of the inhabitants in providing ſchool maſters for their children, is notorious.

"The inhabitants [of Portland] are largely concerned in the fiſhery." They have not more than two ſchooners employed in this buſineſs. Fiſh, it is true, are exported from Portland; but they are purchaſed in Boſton,

and of the ſhore fiſhermen along the coaſt; principally in the former place.

P. 351. "Hallowell is ſituated in latitude 44° 40′." Hallowell is at leaſt 23′ ſouth of this latitude.

It appears from Fleet's Regiſter for 1793, which is acknowledged to be a very authentick work, that there are a hundred and fifty townſhips and plantations in the diſtrict of Maine; but not more than fifty five ſettled miniſters: of whom thirty nine are congregationaliſts; fourteen, baptiſts; one, a preſbyterian; and one, an epiſcopalian. In addition to theſe, there is a Roman catholick miſſionary at Paſſamaquaddy.

"The remains of the Penobſcot tribe conſiſt of about a hundred families. The tribe is increaſing, in conſequence of an obligation laid, by the ſachems, on the young people, to marry early." The Penobſcot tribe, at preſent, conſiſts of leſs than three hundred perſons. It is true that the young people marry early; but notwithſtanding this, their numbers are decreaſing.*

P. 353. "Maſſachuſetts. Length, a hundred and twenty five miles; breadth, fifty: ſituated between 1° 30′ and 5° 40′, eaſt longitude; and between 41° 30′ and 43°, north latitude: contains ſix thouſand, two hundred, and fifty ſquare miles." The ſouth part of the county of Barnſtable is in the latitude of 41° 30′. But if the iſland of Nantucket be included, Maſſachuſetts is ſituated between 41° 13′ and 42° 52′, north lati-

* I am indebted for this correction to a Topographical and Hiſtorical Account of the diſtrict of Maine, written by the Attorney General of Maſſachuſetts. Having been indulged with a peruſal of the author's manuſcript, it would be eaſy to point out ſeveral other miſtakes in Mr. M.'s deſcription of Maine; but as the work will be ſoon publiſhed, it is unneceſſary.

tude; and between 1° 21′ and 5° 11′, eaſt longitude from Philadelphia. The length of a line, drawn from the north weſt corner of the ſtate, to Plumb Iſland, is a hundred and twenty miles; and from the ſouth weſt corner of the ſtate, to Marſhfield Point, a hundred and fifty eight miles. If the latter be extended to the high land of Truro, the length of Maſſachuſetts will be a hundred and eighty nine miles. The breadth of the ſtate, in the county of Berkſhire, is forty eight miles and a half; the breadth, in the wideſt part, ninety miles. As there has never been a complete ſurvey of the ſtate, it is impoſſible to determine with exactneſs, the number of ſquare miles. But from the beſt materials which I have been able to procure, I eſtimate them in round numbers, at nine thouſand. If this eſtimate be juſt, the population for every ſquare mile is forty two, and not ſixty, as Mr. M. ſuppoſes.

P. 354. Mr. M. is not accurate in deſcribing the courſe of Charles river. Sherburne and Natick are ſituated north weſt of it; and Dover, ſouth eaſt. It does not run "through Newton," but divides that townſhip from Needham, Weſton, and Waltham.

P. 355. He omits ſeveral ſmall rivers, which empty themſelves into Buzzard's bay, and which are of as much importance as Parker's or Neponſet river.

"The only capes of note are Cape Ann and Cape Cod." There are other capes well known to ſeamen: viz. Cape Malabar, or Sandy Point, which extends ten miles ſouth from Chatham, toward Nantucket; Cape Poge, the north eaſt point of Chappaquiddick; and Gay Head, the weſt point of Martha's Vineyard.

The topographical deſcription of the county of Barnſtable, publiſhed in the third volume of the Maſſachuſetts

Magazine, does great credit to its author, as well for its accuracy in general, as for the elegant and ſprightly manner in which it is written. With part of this Mr. M. has enriched his Geography: but, with his uſual haſte, he has not thought proper to inquire, whether alterations have not taken place ſince the year 1791; or whether the deſcription be in any part erroneous.

The county of Barnſtable is a long and narrow peninſula, the whole of which is commonly called Cape Cod, though that name ought to be confined to the northern point. The length of this peninſula is ſixty three miles.* The number of ſquare miles is four hundred; and of inhabitants, who have increaſed ſince the year 1790, about eighteen thouſand. The ſoil is in general ſandy; and there are few ſtones below Harwich. The eaſtern ſhore is gradually waſting; and the weſtern ſhore, gaining upon the bay, at leaſt in ſome places. Cape Cod harbour is capacious, and ſafe, except a ſtrong wind blows from the ſouth eaſt, when veſſels are expoſed to drag their anchors, the bottom being ſandy. Povince town contains a hundred and ten families, who employ twenty eight ſail of veſſels in the cod fiſhery. Not more than two of the houſes are ſet upon piles: the reſt have cellars. The diſtance from the village to Wood End is two miles.—The reader, by comparing theſe particulars with Mr. M.'s deſcription, p. 355—358, will perceive in what reſpects he is ſuppoſed to be erroneous.

P. 358. There are other bays on the coaſt of Maſſachuſetts, beſide thoſe which Mr. M. has enumerated.

* See Collections of the Maſſachuſetts Hiſtorical Society, vol. III, p. 12. Mr. Mellen makes the length, as the road runs, ſixty five miles: but as meaſured upon the charts of Des Barres, from Buzzard's bay, through the middle of the land, the length is not more than ſixty three miles.

"Nantucket ſends one repreſentative to the general aſſembly." A foreigner, in reading this, and what is ſaid of Duke's County, p. 359, line 21, would ſuppoſe, that the towns of Maſſachuſetts are, by law, unalterably reſtricted in the number of their repreſentatives, without regard to their population. The truth is, that "repreſentatives are choſen by the ſeveral towns, according to their numbers of rateable polls." P. 379. The inhabitants of Nantucket have at preſent a right to elect five repreſentatives; and they have frequently choſen more than one.

Mr. M. ſeems not to know when Nantucket was ſettled. But if he would inquire of ſome of the intelligent inhabitants of the iſland, they could inform him, that Nantucket was granted to Thomas Mayhew, by the earl of Stirling, in the year 1641; and that the ſettlement by the Engliſh commenced in the year 1659.—Many intereſting particulars reſpecting Nantucket might be obtained, by taking ſome pains.

P. 359. "Martha's Vineyard is about twenty one miles in length." Martha's Vineyard, excluſive of the iſland of Chappaquiddick, is nineteen miles in length.

"This and the neighbouring iſland conſtitute Duke's County, containing three thouſand, two hundred, and ſixty five inhabitants, between four and five hundred of whom are Indians and mulattoes." Martha's Vineyard, and the neighbouring iſland of Chappaquiddick, together with Nomanſland, and the Elizabeth Iſlands, conſtitute Duke's County, containing between three and four thouſand inhabitants, beſide about four hundred and forty Indians and mulattoes. The Elizabeth Iſlands, which Mr. M. does not think of ſufficient importance to be mentioned, contain about ſixteen thouſand, five hundred acres. The ſoil in general is fertile, whilſt that of Mar-

tha's Vineyard is ſandy, gravelly, and for the moſt part barren. There is ſome good land in it, as Mr. M. ſuggeſts; but about two thirds of the iſland are ſhrub oak plain.

"Chabaquidick is three miles long." Chappaquiddick, from Cape Poge to Waſque Point, is ſix miles long.

"The other iſlands of conſideration are in Maſſachuſetts bay." Maſſachuſetts bay is here confounded with the harbour of Boſton. See p. 373, line 30.

A very imperfect idea is given of the ſoil and productions of Maſſachuſetts. To ſay, that "all the varieties of ſoil, from very good to very bad, are to be found," without ſpecifying, at leaſt in general terms, the proportion of each, and deſcribing more particularly the ſoil in different parts of the ſtate, is not ſatisfactory to a reader of curioſity.

P. 360. "The ſtaple commodities of this ſtate are fiſh, beef, and lumber." Are no other articles which are exported from Maſſachuſetts, ſtaple commodities?

P. 363. "In this ſtate are twelve paper mills." There is a paper mill in Springfield, and perhaps others, which Mr. M. has omitted.

P. 366. "Lynn beach may be reckoned a curioſity." By none, except thoſe who never ſaw any other "ſmooth and hard" beach on the ſea coaſt. A ſhore of this nature is too common in New England, to be conſidered as a curioſity.

P. 367. "Yellow and red ochre have been diſcovered at Martha's Vineyard." I add, and in other places.

"The American Academy has a committee, by the name of the Agricultural Committee." This was once true; but Mr. M. himſelf informs us, p. 369, that this "committee is diſſolved."

P. 368. In addition to the huts which Mr. M. enumerates, the Humane Society have erected one at Stout's Creek, near Cape Cod.

P. 369. Several ſocieties in Maſſachuſetts are omitted.

P. 371, 372. Mr. M. has given an imperfect and confuſed account of Harvard Univerſity.

"Eſſex bank, at Salem, was incorporated 1792." Eſſex bank is not incorporated.

"Boſton lies in latitude 42° 23′, north." This is near the truth; but it does not correſpond with the latitude aſſigned to Boſton in p. 41, which is there 42° 25′. The American Geographer has given three different longitudes to Boſton, none of which are right: p. 41, "70° 37′, weſt longitude from Greenwich;" p. 39, "70° 25′, weſt from London;" vol. II, p. 522, "71° 4′, weſt" from the ſame meridian.

P. 373. "The buildings in the town cover about a thouſand acres. It contains nearly two thouſand dwelling houſes, and about twenty thouſand inhabitants." The peninſula of Boſton does not contain more than ſeven hundred acres; and large ſpots of land are not covered with buildings. In the year 1790, there were two thouſand, three hundred, and ſeventy ſix houſes, and eighteen thouſand and thirty eight inhabitants. Since that time new houſes have been built, and the number of inhabitants has increaſed. XX

"The harbour of Boſton is diverſified with forty iſlands, which afford rich paſturing, hay, and grain." Unleſs every rock and ſunken iſland be included, there are not forty iſlands in the harbour. Of theſe iſlands, not more than fifteen are of much importance for their ſize or productions. The greateſt number are ſmall and of little value.

"Boſton was ſettled as early as the year 1631." Boſton was ſettled in 1630.

P. 376. Charleſtown, according to the Table at the end of the ſecond volume, lies 32′, eaſt from the meridian of Boſton. Theſe two towns are under the ſame meridian.

P. 377. "Plymouth contains about three hundred houſes." In the townſhip of Plymouth, a tract fifteen miles long, and five, broad, there are about three hundred houſes. But the town conſiſts of leſs than two hundred. What moſt readers of the Univerſal Geography will underſtand by a town, is a collection of houſes. Some of Mr. M.'s New England towns hardly deſerve the name of villages.

"Courts are held in Hadley and Deerfield." They are not held in theſe two places.

"Lenox [is one of] the principal towns in Berkſhire county." Lenox is the ſhire town of the county of Berkſhire; but in wealth, it ranks the tenth townſhip, and in population, the fourteenth. There is in it no collection of houſes, which is entitled to a more important name than that of a hamlet.

P. 378. The ſtatement of the number of the ſeveral religious denominations in Maſſachuſetts is very erroneous, as well as inconſiſtent with other parts of the Univerſal Geography. "We reckon the number of inhabitants in the ſtate at three hundred, and fifty eight thouſand, ſeven hundred, and ninety eight." Mr. M. knows very well, that in the year 1790, there were, in Maſſachuſetts and Maine, four hundred and ſeventy five thouſand, three hundred, and twenty ſeven inhabitants. But he has adopted his ſtatement from a former edition; and was in too much haſte, to make it agree with the cenſus.

"Congregationaliſts, four hundred congregations; baptiſts, eighty four; preſbyterians, four; univerſaliſts, two." In p. 252, he ſays, that there are four hundred and forty congregational ſocieties. In p. 257, he ſtates the baptiſts at a hundred and ſeven churches. According to Fleet's Regiſter, there are five preſbyterian churches, and one ſociety of methodiſts. Mr. M. is diſpoſed to leſſen the number of the univerſaliſts; but they have at leaſt four congregations in Maſſachuſetts. He ſuppoſes "that each religious ſociety, of every denomination, is compoſed of an equal number of ſouls:" and he ſays, that his "apportionment of the different ſects is perhaps as accurate, as the nature of the ſubject will allow." It is not as accurate as he himſelf might have made it, with very little pains. The epiſcopalians are few, and their ſocieties, except one in Boſton, bear no proportion to thoſe of the congregationaliſts. The ſocieties of the baptiſts, with ſome exceptions, are alſo ſmall. If Mr. Aſplund's ſuppoſition (p. 257) be juſt, the number of this denomination is not more than twenty one thouſand, three hundred, and forty eight. Making the moſt liberal deductions for the other denominations, the number of congregationaliſts, in Maſſachuſetts and Maine, may be eſtimated at four hundred and thirty four thouſand. Mr. M. ſtates it at two hundred and ſeventy ſeven thouſand, ſix hundred.

P. 379. "Taxes are levied on all males between ſixteen and fifty, except ſuch as are exempted by law." Poll taxes are levied on all males who are upwards of ſixteen, except ſuch as are exempted by law, or who are excuſed by poverty, age, or infirmity.

"They [the general court] meet annually on the laſt Tueſday in May." This miſtake is repeated from former editions.

P. 381. " Rhode Iſland, and Providence Plantations. Length, ſixty eight miles; breadth, forty miles: ſituated between 3° and 4°, eaſt longitude; and between 41° and 42°, north latitude." Rhode Iſland is ſituated between 3° 11′ and 4° 1′, eaſt longitude; and between 41° 22′ and 42° 2′, north latitude. The ſouth part of Block Iſland is in the latitude of 41° 8′. The length is forty ſix miles. The breadth, in the wideſt part, is thirty eight miles; and in that part of the ſtate which lies weſt of Narraganſet bay, twenty three miles. The number of ſquare miles is about thirteen hundred; and the population for every ſquare mile, fifty three.

P. 382. The iſland of " Rhode Iſland is thirteen miles in length." From Common fence Point, to Brenton's Point, in a ſtraight line, the diſtance is ſixteen miles. The length of the iſland, on a meridian, is fourteen miles and a half.

" Canonnicut Iſland is ſix miles in length." Canonnicut Iſland is above eight miles in length.

" Prudence Iſland is nearly or quite as large as Canonnicut." Prudence Iſland, which is ſix miles long, in a ſtraight line, and near eight, following its curves, is about one half the ſize of Canonnicut.

P. 383. Mr. M. does not appear to be pleaſed with the ſtate of religion in Rhode Iſland. The unlimited toleration, which has always exiſted in this ſtate, has produced a variety of ſects; and this our Geographer conſiders as a very ſerious evil. But this is not the worſt effect. For " there is a conſiderable number of the people, who can be reduced to no particular denomination;" or, as Mr. M. expreſſes it in a former edition, who " are, as to religion, ſtrictly nothingarians." And, " in many towns, publick worſhip is too much neglected by the

greater part of the inhabitants." Mr. M. uſes words in ſo looſe a ſenſe, that it is not eaſy to ſay, what he means by *conſiderable number*, *many towns*, and *greater part*. Perhaps therefore, he will not charge me with contradicting him, when I aſſert, upon the authority of ſome reſpectable gentlemen of Rhode Iſland, that there are a few only of the people of this ſtate, who do not claſs themſelves with ſome religious ſect; and that in few of the towns, publick worſhip is neglected by the greater part of the inhabitants. In this neglect Rhode Iſland is not peculiar; for there are ſome towns in Maſſachuſetts (to ſay nothing of other ſtates) in which a majority of the people do not attend publick worſhip.

This reproach againſt Rhode Iſland is not new. For the friends of religious eſtabliſhments have always viewed the people of this ſtate with an evil eye; and have readily given credit to every ſlanderous report, which has been raiſed againſt them. The candid and excellent Mr. Callender, above fifty years ago, obſerved, that the inhabitants of Rhode Iſland were "repreſented as living without a publick worſhip, and as ungoſpelized plantations." But he then aſſerted, and it muſt ſtill be acknowledged, that "notwithſtanding the liberty and indulgence allowed, the form of godlineſs was every where maintained."* It is true, that the "people pay no taxes for the ſupport of eccleſiaſticks of any denomination:" but there is no townſhip in the ſtate, which has not one or more religious ſocieties. The fact is, that the religious ſocieties are numerous, in proportion to the population; there being above eighty of various denominations. Of theſe, not more than eighteen are deſtitute of miniſters. There are, in proportion, as many vacant churches in Maſſachuſetts.

* Century Sermon, p. 68.

"A peculiarity which diſtinguiſhes this ſtate from every other proteſtant country in the known world is, that no contract formed by the miniſter with his people, for his ſalary, is valid in law. So that miniſters are dependent wholly on the integrity of the people for their ſupport, ſince their ſalaries are not recoverable by law." It is not my intention to vindicate this regulation; but I would, on this occaſion, adopt the words of Mr. Callender:* "That man, who will go about to juſtify, or condemn, a party, in the groſs, and without diſtinction, ſhall never be approved or imitated by me." It appears to me, that the zeal of the inhabitants of Rhode Iſland againſt religious eſtabliſhments, honourable as it is to them in general, has, in ſome inſtances, hurried them into the oppoſite extreme. Mr. M. however, in my opinion, has expreſſed himſelf with too much warmth. For though the law is wrong, yet the people have ſo much integrity and generoſity, that no bad effects reſult from it. This the American Geographer is compelled to acknowledge in his preſent edition. For he now obſerves, what he ought to have known nine years ago, "that the clergy in general are liberally maintained, and none who merit it, have reaſon to complain for want of ſupport."

Not ſatisfied with repreſenting the inhabitants of Rhode Iſland as irreligious, in the ſame page, Mr. M. repreſents them as an ignorant people. "The literature of this ſtate is confined principally to the towns of Newport and Providence. There are men of learning and abilities ſcattered though other towns, but they are rare. The bulk of the inhabitants, in other parts of the ſtate, are involved in greater ignorance perhaps, than in

* Century Sermon, p. 52.

moſt other parts of New England. An impartial hiſtory of their tranſactions ſince the peace, would evince the truth of the above obſervations." Mr. M. qualifies this invective with the words *principally* and *perhaps*, which, in ſome degree, blunt the edge of it. He may think me too confident in aſſertion, when I ſay, that the literature of the ſtate is not confined to Newport and Providence; and that though there may not be as many men of learning, as in the two adjoining ſtates, yet that the inhabitants are not involved in greater ignorance, than the inhabitants of many other parts of New England. An impartial hiſtory of ſome tranſactions of the government of Rhode Iſland, ſince the peace, I confeſs, would not be very honourable to thoſe who were engaged in them. But the people ought not, on account of them, to be charged with ignorance. A few deſigning men may, for a time, lead even a well informed people, into abſurd and diſhoneſt meaſures. During this period, as Mr. M. ſays, p. 302, "the ſtate was governed by a faction." Plauſible reaſons were urged in favour of a paper medium, by men who were more corrupt than ignorant; and thoſe who oppoſed this meaſure, though numerous and reſpectable, were out-voted. At the preſent moment, the inhabitants of Rhode Iſland are as judicious in their conduct, and as firm in the ſupport of the federal government, as their neighbours. They ought therefore to recover their reputation with the American Geographer.

Mr. M. is offended with the people of Rhode Iſland, for rejecting the federal conſtitution in their town meetings. (See p. 306.) But though this government has been found, upon experiment, to promote the happineſs of the people; yet Mr. M. may remember, that when it

was firſt propoſed, the minds of many good men, in other ſtates, were alarmed with fears and jealouſies. The majority of the Rhode Iſland convention, which finally adopted it, was indeed ſmall. But it may be aſked, which is moſt honourable to a community, to examine a conſtitution of government with care; to heſitate for a while; to reject, becauſe it was ſuppoſed imperfect; but at length, overcome by convincing evidence, as well as by a ſenſe of intereſt, to adopt, and when adopted, firmly to ſupport: or, to receive implicitly, and without inquiry and without debate, to vote unanimouſly?

If the tranſactions of a legiſlature muſt fix the ſtamp of knowledge or ignorance upon a people, Maſſachuſetts came very near being involved in the ſame reproach, which Mr. M. has caſt upon Rhode Iſland. A ſmall change in the general court, would have introduced a paper currency, which muſt neceſſarily have depreciated; and a trifling alteration in the convention of 1788, would have enſured the rejection of the federal conſtitution. In five counties there was a majority of votes againſt it. But no candid man, I preſume, will affirm, that thoſe counties are involved in greater ignorance, than ſome counties, in which there was a majority in its favour.

In every edition of Mr. M.'s Geography, he repeats the charge of ignorance againſt Rhode Iſland. This want of candour probably proceeds, in part, from religious prejudice. For "the *baptiſts* are the moſt numerous of any denomination in the ſtate." Where the baptiſts predominate, there, in the American Geographer's opinion, ignorance muſt abound. That this is his ſentiment, he has declared in ſufficiently plain terms, in his Geography Made Eaſy, New Haven, 1784. For in that book, p. 32, he ſpeaks of the baptiſts of Maſſachuſetts in the following manner: "The baptiſts are a numerous,

growing, litigious, and illiterate ſet of people." It is true that Mr. M. omitted this paſſage in his ſubſequent editions. But whilſt he fixes the ſtigma of peculiar ignorance upon a ſtate, where the baptiſts are the moſt numerous, it diſcovers no want of candour to believe, that he ſtill retains the ſame prejudice againſt that worthy body of chriſtians.

If the baptiſts be ignorant, as the American Geographer inſinuates, it is not owing to their not taking pains to obtain knowledge; nor can they be juſtly charged with being hoſtile to learning. Chiefly through their patronage, a college has been founded in Rhode Iſland, and is now in a flouriſhing ſtate. Ignorant men are frequently illiberal. But the college of Rhode Iſland is upon a remarkably liberal plan, and does great credit to its founders. In conferring literary honours, and in the choice of inſtructors, the fellows and truſtees have been guided by the moſt generous and catholick ſpirit; and have paid no regard to diſtinctions of ſects, or difference of ſentiment.

In a word, many things may be urged in favour of Rhode Iſland, by a writer diſpoſed to do juſtice to the ſtate. This happy ſpot can boaſt the diſtinguiſhed honour, of being the firſt in ſetting the example of an unlimited toleration;* an example which has ſince been followed by every other ſtate in the union. Except in a few dark intervals, the civil and religious freedom which it has enjoyed, has rendered its ſituation peaceable and happy. At preſent, it is in a very proſperous condition.

* "It is much to the honour of the government of Rhode Iſland, that there never was an inſtance of perſecution for conſcience ſake countenanced by them." Belknap's Hiſt. of N. Hampſhire, vol. I, p. 89.

In proportion to its extent, it is the moſt populous of any of the United States. In proportion to its population, it is the moſt commercial; if we may form our judgment from its exports, which laſt year, amounted to the value of ſix hundred, and ninety eight thouſand, and eighty four dollars. Its merchants are enterpriſing; and the people in general, induſtrious. The manners and virtues which render ſociety pleaſing, are as often diſplayed in this, as in any other ſtate.* The fathers of the colony, Williams and Coddington, were not inferiour in merit to the founders of the other North American colonies. Nor has the ſtate, in any period, been deſtitute of eminent men, who have done honour to their country by their abilities and virtue.

P. 387. "Newport lies in latitude 41° 35′." The latitude of Newport is 41° 30′, and the longitude, weſt from London 71° 12′, and not 71° 6′, as Mr. M. ſays, vol. II, p. 528.

P. 389. "Briſtol is about ſixteen miles north of Newport." The diſtance between theſe towns is thirteen miles.

P. 391. "As the original inhabitants of this ſtate were perſecuted, *at leaſt in their own opinion*, for the ſake of conſcience, a moſt liberal and free toleration was eſtabliſhed by them."—Is it Mr. M.'s opinion, that the ſettlers of Rhode Iſland were not perſecuted? "So little has the civil authority to do with religion here, that, as has been already hinted, no contract between a miniſter and a ſociety *(unleſs incorporated for that purpoſe)* is of any force. It is probably for *theſe reaſons*, that ſo

* "Benevolence and hoſpitality remarkably characterize the people of Rhode Iſland." Conſtitutions of the United States, p. 51, 2d edit. Boſton, 1784.

many different ſects have ever been found here; and that the ſabbath and all religious inſtitutions, have ever been more neglected in this, than in any other of the New England ſtates." It muſt afford pleaſure to the candid reader to contraſt theſe hints, againſt a *free toleration*, and in favour of the *civil authority's* interfering in religion, with the manly and chriſtian ſentiments of the baptiſt Callender, expreſſed in the following extract from his Century Sermon, p. 103—109.

"Liberty of conſcience was the baſis of this colony. Our fathers thought it juſt and neceſſary to allow each other mutually to worſhip God, as their conſciences were reſpectively perſuaded. They thought no man had power over the ſpirit of God; and that the duty of the magiſtrate was to leave every man to follow the light of his conſcience. They were willing to exhibit to the world an inſtance, that liberty of conſcience was conſiſtent with the publick peace, and the flouriſhing of a civil commonwealth; as well as that chriſtianity could ſubſiſt without compulſion; and that bearing each other's burdens, was the way to fulfil the law of Chriſt.

——"The experiment has fully anſwered, and even beyond what might have been expected, from the *firſt* attempt. The civil ſtate has flouriſhed as well, as if ſecured by ever ſo many penal laws, and an inquiſition to put them in execution. Our civil officers have been choſen out of every religious ſociety; and the publick peace has been as well preſerved, and the publick councils as well conducted, as we could have expected, had we been aſſiſted by ever ſo may religious teſts.

"All profaneneſs and immorality are puniſhed by the laws made to ſuppreſs them; and while theſe laws are well executed, ſpeculative opinions, or modes of worſhip.

can never diſturb or injure the peace of a ſtate, that allows all its ſubjects an equal liberty of conſcience. Indeed it is not variety of opinions, or ſeparation in worſhip, that makes diſorders and confuſions in government: It is the unjuſt, unnatural, and abſurd attempt to force all to be of one opinion, or to feign and diſſemble that they are.——

"Liberty of conſcience was never more fully enjoyed in any place, than here: and this colony, with ſome ſince formed on the ſame model, have proved that the terrible fears, that barbarity would break in, where no particular forms of worſhip or diſcipline are eſtabliſhed by the civil power, are really vain and groundleſs; and that chriſtianity can ſubſiſt without a national church, or viſible head; and without being incorporated into the ſtate. It ſubſiſted ſo for the firſt three hundred years; yea, in oppoſition and defiance to all the powers of hell and earth."

P. 392. "Connecticut. Length, eighty two miles; breadth, fifty ſeven: ſituated between 1° 50′ and 3° 20′, eaſt longitude." The difference of longitude, between the north eaſt corner of Thompſon, and the north weſt corner of Greenwich, is as much as 1° 56′. Mr. M. makes the difference of longitude, between the eaſtern and weſtern extremities of the ſtate, no more than 1° 30′.

P. 393. "The diviſional line between Connecticut and Maſſachuſetts, as ſettled in 1713, was found to be about ſeventy two miles in length. The ſea coaſt, from the mouth of Paukatuk river, to the mouth of Byram river, is reckoned at about ninety miles." According to Blodget's map, the north line of Connecticut is ninety four miles in length; and the diſtance between the mouth of Paukatuk river, and the mouth of Byram riv-

er, a hundred and three miles. Of Blodget's map I have heard this character, from the firſt authority, that it is the beſt which has hitherto been publiſhed; that it is erroneous in ſeveral minute parts, but that the outlines of the ſtate are accurate. It is one confirmation of it, that it correſponds exactly with Holland's correct chart of the ſea coaſt, publiſhed in 1787. This map therefore appears to me a better authority than Douglaſs's Summary, from which Mr. M. has borrowed his lines.* The length of Connecticut, from the north weſt corner of Greenwich, on a due eaſt line, to the longitude of Paukatuk river, is about a hundred miles. The breadth, in the wideſt part, is above ſeventy two miles, if, as I conjecture, the north weſt corner of the ſtate is ſituated further north than the latitude 42° 2′. The line dividing Connecticut from Rhode Iſland, is, as Mr. M. ſtates it, forty five miles.† The contents of the ſtate are about five thouſand, four hundred ſquare miles; and the population for every ſquare mile, forty four. According to Mr. M. "Connecticut contains about four thouſand, ſix hundred, and ſeventy four ſquare miles; equal to about two millions, ſix hundred, and forty thouſand acres." He has here made another miſtake in his arithmetick.

P. 398. "Connecticut is the moſt populous, in proportion to its extent, of any of the *thirteen* ſtates." Rhode Iſland is the moſt populous of any of the *fifteen* ſtates. If we muſt believe Mr. M. however, in another part of his work, Maſſachuſetts, excluſive of Maine, is the moſt populous part of the United States. See p. 353.

Under the head of the Character of the inhabitants of Connecticut, the American Geographer has an oppor-

* See Dougl. Sum. vol. I, p. 416, and vol. II, p. 161.

† A point of Rhode Iſland extends about a mile further ſouth.

tunity of diſcovering his prejudice againſt lawyers. He ſeems to conſider it as an evil, that there is "a numerous body" of them in the ſtate. In another part of his work, he triumphs in the idea, that a lawyer cannot live within ſixty miles of the county of Cape May, in New Jerſey. See p. 466. But theſe facts prove no more, than that Connecticut is a rich and populous ſtate; and that the ſouthern part of New Jerſey is a barren country, and thinly ſettled. In the firſt edition of his Geography, he ſpoke in much plainer terms againſt the gentlemen of the bar:* "Lawyers have united here, [in South Carolina,] as well as in moſt other ſtates, the ſkill and dexterity of the ſcribe with the power and ambition of the prince: who can tell where this may lead in a future day? The nature of our laws, and the ſpirit of freedom, which often tends to make us litigious, muſt neceſſarily throw the greateſt part of the property of the United States into the hands of theſe gentlemen. In another century, the law will poſſeſs in the north, what now the church poſſeſſes in Peru and Mexico." It muſt, in juſtice to the American Geographer, be acknowledged, that he has become more candid, ſince he wrote, or rather copied, this invective. For in his preſent edition, he deſcribes lawyers as a harmleſs ſort of animals, which, like rattleſnakes, never bite thoſe who do not come within their reach. See p. 466. "Many of the people here, [in New Jerſey,] as in other ſtates, think (becauſe perhaps they are inſtruments in obliging them to pay their debts) that the lawyers know too much. But their knowledge will not injure thoſe who are innocent, and who will let them alone."

* Geography Made Eaſy, p. 81.

"Religion. Such as is happily adapted to a republican government. As to the mode of exerciſing church government and diſcipline, it might not improperly be called a republican religion." Mr. M. probably intends here the congregational religion. But no ſatisfactory reaſon can be given, why it is more happily adapted to a republican government, than many other religions in the United States.

Republican, however, as the congregational religion is, yet, it ſeems, the miniſters of it are ariſtocrats. For in the paragraph preceding that which I have juſt quoted, Mr. M. ſays, "The clergy, who are numerous, and, as a body, very reſpectable, have hitherto preſerved a kind of ariſtrocratical balance in the very democratical government of the ſtate; which has happily operated as a check upon the overbearing ſpirit of republicaniſm." That the miniſters of Connecticut are a very reſpectable body of men, I fully believe. And that they have always deſervedly enjoyed a large ſhare of influence in the ſtate, I alſo allow. But it appears to me nothing better than an abuſe of words, to ſtyle this an ariſtocratical influence. The miniſters of Connecticut are choſen by the people, and are dependent upon them for their ſupport. Their ſalaries are ſmall, and are not ſufficient to raiſe them above their pariſhioners. They are affable in converſation, hoſpitable to ſtrangers, pure in their morals, and of exemplary piety. As they are laborious in the duties of their profeſſion, attentive in diſcharging the offices of humanity, the friends and the fathers of their flocks, it is not to be wondered at, that their influence ſhould be great among an intelligent and religious people. In Connecticut, as Mr. M. ſuggeſts, knowledge is more generally diffuſed, than in any other part

of America. In every pariſh are to be found men of liberal education, lawyers, phyſicians, and others, who are generally the firmeſt ſupports of an enlightened miniſtry. Inſtead therefore of denominating the influence of the clergy of Connecticut, an ariſtocratical influence; it ought rather to be denominated the influence of wiſdom, virtue and, piety.

P. 401. "A fair is held [at Wethersfield] twice a year." I have been informed, that a fair is not now held at Wethersfield.

To conclude my remarks upon the deſcription of Connecticut, I am ready to acknowledge, that it is written with more care, and is probably more accurate, than any other deſcription which is properly Mr. M.'s own. Some readers may charge him with being partial to his native ſtate. But to me it appears, not that he has done Connecticut more, but that he has done other ſtates leſs, than juſtice.

As I poſſeſs very little knowledge of the middle and ſouthern ſtates, it is not in my power to make many remarks upon the remaining part of the firſt volume. I ſhall, however, note a few errours, and ſome prejudices.

P. 417. "New York is ſituated between 40° 40′ and 45°, north latitude; and between 5°, weſt, and 1° 30′, eaſt longitude." Including Long Iſland, New York is ſituated between 40° 30′ and 45°, north latitude; and the ſtate extends as far eaſt as 3° 6′, eaſt longitude. Long Iſland ought undoubtedly to be included, as it is ſeparated from York Iſland by a river only, which, in the narroweſt part, is leſs than half a mile in breadth.

P. 431. "An inquirer, who would wiſh to acquaint himſelf with the ſtate of the people of New York, their manners and government, would naturally aſk the citizens

for their ſocieties for the encouragement of ſciences, arts, manufactures, &c ? For their publick libraries ? For their patrons of literature ? Their well regulated academies ? For their female academy for inſtructing young ladies in geography, hiſtory, belles lettres, &c ? Such inquiries might be made with propriety, but could not at preſent be anſwered ſatisfactorily." When this paſſage was firſt written, there might be ſome propriety in it. But it ought not to have been admitted into the preſent edition. For Mr. M. informs the publick, p. 439, that there are in the city of New-York, a "ſociety for promoting uſeful knowledge, upon an eſtabliſhment ſimilar to other philoſophical ſocieties in Europe and America; a ſociety for the manumiſſion of ſlaves; a marine ſociety; a ſociety for the relief of poor debtors confined in jail; a manufacturing ſociety; an agricultural ſociety; and a medical ſociety." To theſe he might add the St. Tammany Society, the objects of which are ſimilar to thoſe of the Hiſtorical Society of Maſſachuſetts. Beſide theſe ſocieties, there is a college in the city of New York, and eight incorporated academies in different parts of the ſtate.—A New York inquirer, in return, might aſk Mr. M. for the philoſophical ſocieties of ſome of his favourite ſtates. But ſuch inquiries could not at preſent be anſwered ſatisfactorily. The truth, however, is, that the learning of a country cannot always be determined from the number of its literary ſocieties. *Conſpici quam prodeſſe*, ought in general to be the motto of ſuch inſtitutions. Their moſt important labours are commonly performed in the infancy of their exiſtence. But after a few years, the majority of members ſatisfy themſelves with annexing to their names the empty title of an F. R. S. and leave

the improvement of the arts and ſciences to the literary induſtry of individuals, who are no academicians.

P. 443. "In all debates on great queſtions, the houſe [of aſſembly] reſolves itſelf into a committee of the whole." This is not peculiar to New York.

P. 450. "Long Iſland extends a hundred and forty miles." Long Iſland extends a hundred and eighteen miles.

P. 451. "Staten Iſland is about eighteen miles in length." Staten Iſland is about thirteen miles and a half in length.

P. 466. "It is remarkable that in the county of Cape May, [in New Jerſey,] no regular phyſician has ever found ſupport." This wonderful county of Cape May, in which the vermin of the learned profeſſions can find no ſupport, is "thirty miles long, and nine, broad. The ſoil is a ſandy barren, unfit in many parts for cultivation;" and the inhabitants are no more than five hundred and ſeventy one. Province town in Maſſachuſetts, deſcribed by Mr. M. p. 355, contains nearly as many inhabitants as the county of Cape May. No regular phyſician has yet ventured to approach this favoured ſpot; and what is ſtill more to its honour, a lawyer cannot live within forty miles of it.

P. 473. "Buffalo Swamp is in the north weſtern parts of Northumberland county," [Pennſylvania.] If this ſwamp exiſt any where, it muſt be in the ſtate of New York; where indeed Mr. M. places it in one of his maps.

In p. 522. Mr. M. begins to diſcover his prejudices againſt the ſouthern ſtates. He gives a long character of the inhabitants of Maryland, and deſcribes them as negligent in dreſs, ſlothful, and ignorant. "Theſe obſer-

vations, however, (he adds) muſt in juſtice be limited to the people in the country, and to thoſe particularly, whoſe poverty or parſimony prevents their ſpending a part of their time in populous towns, or otherwiſe mingling with the world. And with theſe limitations, they will apply equally to all the ſouthern ſtates."

In his American Geography, p. 353, Mr. M. ſpoke of the inhabitants of Baltimore in the following terms: "There are many very reſpectable families in Baltimore, who live genteely, are hoſpitable to ſtrangers, and maintain a friendly and improving intercourſe with each other; but the bulk of the inhabitants, recently collected from almoſt all quarters of the world, bent on the purſuit of wealth, varying in their habits, their manners, and their religions, if they have any, are unſocial, unimproved, and inhoſpitable." This is one of the offenſive paſſages, which the American Geographer has undertaken to meliorate; and the manner in which he has acquitted himſelf, proves how unwilling he is to give up any prejudice which he has once imbibed. In the preſent edition, he expreſſes himſelf thus: "There are many very reſpectable families in Baltimore, who live genteely, are hoſpitable to ſtrangers, and maintain a friendly and improving intercourſe with each other; *but* the bulk of the inhabitants, recently collected from almoſt all quarters of the world, bent on the purſuit of wealth, varying in their habits, their manners, and their religions, *have yet their general character to form.*" The paſſage, as it now ſtands, either means nothing; or it means, that the bulk of the inhabitants of Baltimore are not hoſpitable to ſtrangers, and do not maintain a friendly and improving intercourſe with each other; or, as was before ſaid, that they are unſocial, unimproved, and inhoſpitable.

The deſcription of Virginia is borrowed principally from Mr. Jefferſon's Notes: Mr. M. has added little elſe than ſome illiberal cenſures on the inhabitants.

P. 551. "Every thing in Williamſburgh appears dull, forſaken, and melancholy—no trade—no amuſements, but the infamous one of gaming—no induſtry, and very little appearance of religion." Thus minutely does the Geographer from New England deſcribe the character of a handful of people; and thus inhumanly does he inſult the falling.

P. 554. "Virginia prides itſelf in being The Ancient Dominion." Such an obſervation as this, though trifling, may be characteriſtick of a people; and if made with good humour, cannot give any reaſonable offence. A Virginian would not be ſuſpected of ridiculing the inhabitants of New England, if he ſhould obſerve, That they pride themſelves in ſpeaking the Engliſh language with greater purity, and pronouncing it with more propriety, than the H——s, the J——s, the M——s, the R——s, the S——s, and the W——s, of the middle and ſouthern ſtates. See p. 212, 314.

P. 555. "The government, though nominally republican, is, in fact, oligarch*al* or ariſtocratical."

"The Virginians, who are *rich*, are in general ſenſible, polite, and hoſpitable, and of an independent ſpirit. The *poor* are ignorant and abject—and are all of an inquiſitive turn. A conſiderable proportion of the people are much addicted to gaming, drinking, ſwearing, horſe racing, cock fighting, and moſt kinds of diſſipation." This I believe, from the beſt information which I have had an opportunity of obtaining, is much too general a cenſure.

"The native inhabitants are too generally unacquainted with buſineſs, owing to their pride and falſe notions of greatneſs."

"The two houſes of aſſembly have the appointment of delegates to Congreſs." When Mr. Jefferſon wrote his Notes, this was true; but ſince that time, the conſtitution of the United States has been eſtabliſhed.

P. 562. "Kentucky contains five thouſand ſquare miles." This, and every other errour of the preſs, ought to be acknowledged in a table of errata.

"Kentucky is bounded ſouth by North Carolina." Kentucky is bounded ſouth by the Tenneſſee Government. See p. 584.

P. 563. "Cumberland river, in about half its courſe, paſſes through North Carolina." This is not conſiſtent with what is ſaid of this river, p. 587.

P. 575. "Edenton has a brick church for *epiſcopalians*, which for many years has been much neglected, and ſerves only to ſhow that the people once had a regard, at leaſt, for the externals of religion."

P. 578, 579. "The weſtern parts of this ſtate, [North-Carolina,] are chiefly inhabited by preſbyterians, and are exceedingly attached to the doctrine, diſcipline, and uſages of the church of Scotland. They are a regular, induſtrious people; and are in general well ſupplied with a ſenſible and learned miniſtry.—The inhabitants of Wilmington, Newbern, Edenton, and Halifax diſtricts, making about three fifths of the ſtate, once profeſſed themſelves of the *epiſcopal* church." But they "ſeem now to be making the experiment, whether chriſtianity can exiſt long in a country, where there is no viſible chriſtian church." This reflection upon the epiſcopalians is

copied from the former edition. I have been informed by a New England gentleman, who has lived many years in Newbern, that it is as erroneous, as it is ungenerous.

"There is a very numerous body of people, in this, and in all the ſouthern ſtates, who cannot properly be claſſed with any ſect of chriſtians, having never made any profeſſion of chriſtianity."

P. 581. "The general topicks of converſation among the men, when cards, the bottle, and occurrences of the day do not intervene, are negroes, the prices of indigo, rice, tobacco, &c." In other parts of the United States, the general topicks of converſation among the men, are alſo pleaſure, news, and buſineſs.

"Temperance and induſtry are not to be reckoned among the virtues of the North Carolinians." Mr. M. knows that drunkenneſs is a common vice in many parts of New England.

"The time which they waſte in drinking, idling, and gambling, leaves them very little opportunity to improve their plantations or their minds. The improvement of the former is left to their overſeers and negroes; the improvement of the latter is too often neglected."

"The citizens of North Carolina, who are not better employed, ſpend their time in drinking, or gaming at cards and dice, in cock fighting or horſe racing." The citizens of other ſtates, when they are not better employed, ſpend their time in idleneſs and diſſipation.

Mr. M. is more ſparing in his cenſures upon the inhabitants of South Carolina and Georgia. Leſt I ſhould be thought too ſevere, I ſhall omit the character which he formerly gave of the people of the latter ſtate. It is evident from the paſſages which I have quoted, that his mind is not free from local prejudice. He does ev-

ery thing in his power to raiſe the character of the eaſtern ſtates, Rhode Iſland excepted, and to depreſs that of the ſouthern ſtates. Should any perſon at the ſouthward undertake a new American Geography, I hope the ſpirit of retaliation will not lead him to paint our faults in too glowing colours. We ſupplicate for mercy. Our fellow citizens may be aſſured, that there are many perſons in New-England, who are as much diſguſted as they can be, with Mr. M.'s illiberality and groſs miſrepreſentations.

P. 613. Mr. M. relates an idle ſtory of a fairy iſland, inhabited by a race of beautiful and hoſpitable women, the daughters of the ſun, whoſe huſbands are fierce men and cruel to ſtrangers. Thoſe who endeavour to approach this iſland, are involved in perpetual labyrinths; and, like enchanted land, ſtill as they imagine they have juſt gained it, it ſeems to fly before them.—Surely ſuch a fiction as this ought not to be admitted into a book of a geography.

P. 615. "Frederica is the *firſt* town that was built in Georgia."—P. 622. "Mr. Oglethorpe, accompanied by William Bull, ſhortly after his arrival [at Charleſton] viſited Georgia, and after reconnoitering the country, marked the ſpot on which Savannah now ſtands, as the fitteſt to begin a ſettlement. Here they accordingly *began*."

It is not my intention at preſent, to make any other remarks on the firſt volume of the American Univerſal Geography.

The ſecond volume is taken from Guthrie's Geographical Grammar, with additions from Zimmerman's Political Survey, and from other works. In ſome reſpects, particularly in the account of Ireland, it is an improve-

ment upon the London editions of Guthrie. But it appears to have been compiled in a very haſty manner. For there are many miſtakes in arrangement, in arithmetick, chronology, and geography. Some of theſe miſtakes muſt be charged to Guthrie; and others, to Mr. M. In this volume there are three maps only, upon a very ſmall ſcale. As particular maps, therefore, are ſo eſſential to a geographical grammar, Mr. M. cannot reaſonably expect that his compilation ſhould ſuperſede the original work.

The Geographical Table, at the end of the volume, is inconſiſtent, imperfect, and inaccurate. Many important places are omitted; and the latitudes and longitudes of thoſe which are inſerted, are frequently wrong. Mr. M. ought not to have truſted to Guthrie; but he ought to have taken time to compare this table carefully, with the moſt authentick maps which can be procured.

The catalogue of Men of Learning and Genius is a very imperfect liſt of the literati of Europe and America. Sufficient honour is done to Roſcommon, Creech, Whitehead, and other minor poets and trifling authors, whoſe writings have contributed very little to the knowledge or happineſs of mankind: whilſt no notice is taken of ſuch men as Grotius, Le Clerc, Lardner, Price, Wollaſton, Bentley, Jortin, Pearce, and innumerable others, who have diſtinguiſhed themſelves in the cauſe of virtue and religion. The names of the four latter are in Guthrie's catalogue. The American Geographer muſt have ſome reaſon for omitting them; but I am unable to conjecture what it can be.

Mr. M. has added a few American authors to Guthrie's liſt. But the firſt, whom he has thought worthy of being aſſociated with the "learned and eminent men" of

Europe, died no longer ago than the year 1747. For his neglect of the worthies who flouriſhed before that period, as well as of ſome good writers who have appeared ſince, no other apology can be made, than that he drew up his liſt in ſuch haſte, that he had not time to reflect or to inquire. This apology may ſatisfy his own mind, but it will not ſatisfy the publick.

Though I have freely cenſured ſo many parts of Mr. M's work, yet reſpect for him obliges me to ſay, before I conclude, that he does not want abilities, and that he appears to be a friend to religion. He is zealous againſt vice, as well as errour. But his zeal is too credulous and haſty, and is frequently ill timed and miſplaced. In a work of another kind, Mr. M. might very properly declaim againſt drunkenneſs, gaming, and even hereſy. But to liſten to every exaggerated account of the faults of a town or ſtate, and then to publiſh it in a ſyſtem of geography, may demonſtrate his hatred of vice, but it affords no proof of his judgment or candour. With the talents which Mr. M. poſſeſſes, it is in his power to render his work much more complete than it is at preſent. But for this purpoſe, he muſt employ time and pains, without which nothing excellent can ever be produced.

THE END.

If these remarks, as I suppose, come from the pen of Mr. Freeman they are entitled to much respect on point of Authority. He is accurate.

Addition *and* Corrections.

Page 13. *after line* 18, *insert the following:*

P. 20, Note. "Herſchel is about eighty times larger than the earth, which would make its diameter ſix hundred and thirty ſeven thouſand, ſix hundred miles." The diameter of the earth being ſeven thouſand, nine hundred, and ſeventy miles, if the diameter of Herſchel be ſix hundred and thirty ſeven thouſand, ſix hundred miles, it muſt be five hundred and twelve thouſand times larger than the earth.

P. 16, *l.* 8, *from bot. read* Sebaſtian.

P. 25, *and in other places*, *r.* univerſaliſts.

P. 27, *l.* 17, *r.* congregationaliſts.

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